

Galatians 5:25-26

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²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another

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¹ My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. ⁴ All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵ For all must carry their own loads.

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⁶ Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher. ⁷ Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸ If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹ So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

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¹¹ See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! ¹² It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴ May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision nor

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uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. ¹⁷From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. ¹⁸May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Fully Alive

-People with a holy aliveness are people who are flourishing - receiving life from God, creating vitality within, and producing blessing in the lives of others. They are continually becoming more of the people God made them to be. They follow closely after Jesus.

-Fully alive people aren't jealous, don't hold grudges, but forgive. Fully alive people are so comfortable in their own skin - with the life God has given them - that they can appreciate who others are fully and can easily notice and validate the good they see in others. Fully alive people become less and less discouraged. They become less and less easily irritated. They live with joy.

I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you,
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you,
or brought low for you;
let me be full,
let me be empty,
let me have all things,
let me have nothing:

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours.

Wakefulness is the first thing
All the spiritual masters tell us this.
So I prayed, "Awake, my soul."
Let me feel, be alive.
The prayer was answered.
But I did not know
For what I was asking.

"They were living huddled, worried, defensive lives. I wanted to shout in objection: Don't live this way! You are Christians! Our lives can be a growth into freedom instead of a withdrawal into anxious wariness."

"Maybe living out this Christ-freedom is a gift we can offer the world..."

-Eugene Peterson

Love: the truth that I am accepted just as I am

Peace: the realization that God works through the disparities and contradictions of my experience and brings them into harmony.

Patience: the freedom to stay with something or someone, not hurrying, not rushing for a result

Faithfulness: the freedom to be involved in long-term, loyal commitments based on invisible values and meanings rather than immediate and tangible self-interests

-Eugene Peterson

"If we are a person without needs, we soon become a person without companions. . . . Freedom is not self-sufficiency but a shared life."

-Eugene Peterson

"Sooner or later people sit down to a banquet of results and consequences. Every word of encouragement, every prayer of intercession, every act of helping is seed which will mature to eternal life. Every word of criticism, every avoidance of compassion, every indulgence of greed is a seed that will mature to evil corruption."

-Eugene Peterson

THE SLOW WORK OF GOD

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law is the law of all progress that it be made by passing through some stages of instability-- and that it may take a very long time.

-Pierre Teilhard de Chardin
